and the National Institute of Agricultural Marketing (NIAM), Jaipur and other Institutions should be increasingly involved to conduct studies/research and training on all aspects of agricultural marketing and consumer behaviour. Integration of these activities with State Level Organisations by NIAM should be strengthened. Publication of Quarterly Journal on Export of Agricultural commodities should be circulated to State Institutions by NIAM.

(VII) To facilitate farmers to take decisions for sale of their commodities, it is essential that marketing information network using IT (Information Technology) connecting all the important markets for foodgrains, fruits, vegetables, fish, livestock, etc. is set up. The information should be displayed on the electronic boards at prominent places in the market yards. This should also be broadcast in regional languages over All India Radio to give maximum benefit to the farmers. Further, a separate channel in Door Darshan for Agricultural Marketing be commenced. It should also be available on Internet.

(VIII) States should make all efforts to train farmers in post-harvest technology. It is also necessary to start extension services in post-harvest technology.

(IX) There is an urgent need to create infrastructural facilities like cleaning, washing, grading, packing and refrigerated transportation etc. and the private sector should also be involved in setting up grading and packing houses. The Central/State/Union Territory Administration should arrange soft loans to the private sector for setting up these facilities.

(X) The State Governments/Union Territories should make sincere efforts to implement the recommendations of the High Power Committee which have already been accepted by the Central Government in consultation with the State Governments/ Union Territories Administration. It is also essential that elections to the market committees/boards are held regularly. Wherever the Market Committees/Boards have been superseded, steps should be taken to conduct elections at the earliest.

(XI) As the scheme for setting up of rural godowns stands transferred to the State Governments/ UT Administration, it is imperative that adequate storage facilities are provided to the farmers for storage of agricultural and allied products, especially perishable items like fruits and vegetables by constructing rural godowns at strategic places. The scheme of providing pledge finance to the farmers by the Agricultural Produce Market Committees shall be extended to other States/ UT Administration, which have not yet introduced the scheme.

(XII) Instances have come to notice where funds of marketing boards are utilised by the State Governments for other purposes. The State Governments should utilise the funds only for development of agricultural produce markets and the marketing infrastructure.

(XIII) The Conference discussed at length and recognised the need for initiating schemes for improving markets and other infrastructural facilities in the States. Since the States do not have adequate funds, these very essential schemes should be taken up as Centrally Sponsored Schemes in the 9th Plan.

(XIV) To disseminate information to the State Marketing Board Agencies and also to ensure constant to and fro flow of information, periodic meetings will be held by the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment with such agencies. At the Agricultural Marketing Adviser level, the meeting will be held quarterly; at the Secretary's level, half - yearly and it will be held annually at the level of the Minister (RA&E).

Petroleum Products

2848. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation propose to market the petroleum products from the proposed refineries of Essar Oil Ltd. and Reliance Petroleum Ltd. under administered price mechanism;

(b) whether the products of companies would be priced in accordance with the price and terms of APM;

(c) the other terms and conditions of this agreement; and

(d) the manner in which this agreement is likely to meet the shortage of petroleum products in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposed agreements of the Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. with Essar Oil Ltd. (EOL) and Reliance Petroleum Ltd. (RPL) envisage that the price payable and the terms of payment to EOL and RPL for products

when these are under APM will be determined in accordance with the orders issued by the Government in this regard from time to time under the principles of APM.

(c) Terms and conditions of the proposed agreement are under consideration of Government.

(d) Availability of the products from Reliance and Essar Refineries has been considered to estimate the supply demand scenario in the IX Plan Projections. Availability of petroleum products from these refineries will reduce the deficit in the country.

Private Builders

2849. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hardoi) : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 236 dated February 28, 1996 regarding "Private builders" and state :

(a) whether the proposal to formulate a law to regulate the activities of the builders and promoters has been implemented; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) and (b) Housing being a State subject, it is for the State Government to take suitable steps to regulate the activities of the builders with a view to protect the interests of the prospective buyers of flats/apartments. However, to facilitate steps in this direction, the Central Government has formulated a model apartment and property regulation legislation for regulating the activities of builders/developers, and have forwarded the same to the State Government in 1992 for initiating a suitable enactment for the State.

DDA Scheme

2850. SHRI RAMSAGAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "plea to cancel DDA scheme rejected" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated October 8, 1996;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether the DDA informed the Delhi High Court about the time schedule in which the authority would complete the allotment of flats of an earlier scheme whose registrants had been waiting for nearly 20 years for their flats;

(e) whether the Court while issuing notice to DDA on December 6, 1996 observed that the authority was answerable for the delay; and

(f) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The DDA has reported that contention of the petitioner in the Court case referred to in the news item was that he was not being considered for allotment of a flat under the Explandable Housing Scheme, 1996, despite the fact that the waiting list of 1979 registrants had not been exhausted.

(c) The New Pattern Scheme (NPRS) 1979 was opened on All India basis and more than 1.7 lakh persons got themselves registered thereunder. It was practically not possible to construct such a large number of houses in one go for all these registrants. The construction and allotment of flats is also subject to the availability of land drinking water and electricity. So far, 1,37,447 allotments have been made under this scheme.

(d) The DDA has informed the Hon'ble High Court that it expects to clear the backlog in the LIG category within a period of two years subject to the availability of land and provisioning of infrastructural facilities by other agencies.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise in view of reply to part (e).

Encroachment

2852. SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Fencing job left incomplete : DDA has no answer" appearing in the 'Times of India' dated February 12, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon including the action taken against those found responsible in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Delhi Development Authority has reported that fancing in the area has been done on DDA's land. However, a piece of land measuring about 40 bighas of village Mehrauli, which has not been placed at the disposal of DDA, could not be fenced due to stay orders of the Delhi High Court against dispossession of the land in question.